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thirty wood-cuts of many rare birds and mammals, and forms a nearly complete catalogue of all the living vertebrates received by the society during the past ten years. The volume will prove of a good deal of interest to the general student of these animals.

Recent Books and Pamphlets. — Annual Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institute. Washington. 1877. 8vo, pp. 488.

On the Nymph Stage of the Embidæ. By R. M'Lachlan. (Extracted from the Journal of the Linnean Society, Zoölogy, vol. xiii.) 8vo, pp. 11, 1 plate.

The Post-Tertiary Fossils procured in the Late Arctic Expedition; with Notes on some of the Recent or Living Mollusca from the Same Expedition. By J. Gwyn Jeffreys. (From the Annals and Magazine of Natural History for September, 1877.) 8vo, pp. 12.

A Catalogue of the Birds of the Vicinity of Cincinnati, with Notes. By Frank W. Langdon, Naturalist's Agency. Salem, Mass. 1877. 8vo, pp. 17.

On the Tenacity of Life of Tape-Worms and their Larval Forms in Man and Animals. By Prof. Edward Perroncito. (Annali della Reale Accademia d'Agricoltura, 1876.) 8vo, pp. 4.

Members and Correspondents of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. 1877. 8vo, pp. 46.

Address to the Biological Section of the British Association, Plymouth, August, 1877. By J. Gwyn Jeffreys. London. 1877. 8vo, pp. 9.

The Summer Birds of the Adirondacks in Franklin County, New York. By Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., and H. D. Minot. 8vo, pp. 4.

Palæontological Bulletin. No. 25. Verbal Communication on a New Locality of the Green River Shales, containing Fishes, Insects, and Plants in a good State of Preservation. Made by E. D. Cope, before the American Philosophical Society, July 20, 1877. 8vo, pp. 10.

Notes of a New Genus of Annelids from the Lower Silurian. By George Bird Grinnell. (From the American Journal of Science and Arts. Vol. xiv. September, 1877.) 8vo, pp. 2.

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GENERAL NOTES.

BOTANY.[1]

Poisonous Grasses. — In the September number of *Trimen's Journal of Botany* there is an interesting note by Dr. Hance on Intoxicating Grasses, which supplements a previous article on the same subject. A grass was sent by Dr. Aitchison from Kashmir which Professor Dyer determines as *Stipa Sibirica* Munro. Concerning this grass, Dr. Aitchison writes (date of August 4, 1875): "I have just been collecting some good specimens of a grass that is extremely common near Gulmuz. It grows in large tussocks, and is very poisonous to horses and cattle. The cattle are too knowing and will not eat it. Horses from the plains do eat it and die from its effects, but if quickly treated recover. They become comatose and lose the power of their limbs. It grows in the Scinde Valley also. Whilst there I heard of it and the cure, namely, smoking them, by making a large fire and keeping the horse's head in the smoke. The nose commences to run first, and if it does so freely the beast is safe. The natives also say that if a cow eats it they give acid, unripe apricots, or any vinegar, which aids the recovery. A large number of the horses this year at Gulmuz were poisoned by it; none died, as all smoked their horses." In Dr. Hance's previous article, mention was made of a statement by a French missionary which is materially identical with the above. Professor Dyer suggests in a note to Dr. Hance that the Stipas may be only mechanically poisonous, like *Hordeum pratense*, but Dr. Hance adds that though it is indisputable that various grasses in Europe and Australia cause injury or death to cattle from their irritant properties, the special symptoms in the case of the *Stipa* and in *Melica* seem opposed to such a supposition. "In a recently published translation of Ptzevalsky's travels the Alashan poisonous grass is said to be a species of *Lolium*, and it is added that the native herds carefully avoid eating it."

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[1] Conducted by Prof. G. L. Goodale.

In the September number of the *Botanical Gazette* Dr. J. T. Rothrock has a short note upon the *Leguminosæ* poisonous to stock. These plants are *Oxytropis Lamberti* in Colorado, *Hosackia Purshiana* in Arkansas, and two or three species of *Astragalus* in California.

A REMARKABLY LARGE OSTRYA VIRGINIÇA. — Mr. Robeson, of Lenox, has sent me the dimensions of a remarkable plant of *Ostrya Virginica*, which I found last summer growing near the roadside in West Stockbridge, Mass. I place it on record because it is more than twice as large as the specimens of this species mentioned in any of the works on American trees. Larger specimens, if they anywhere exist, should be reported, that more accurate information may be obtained on the development, under favorable conditions, of this tree. Mr. Robeson's measurements are, girt of stem at the ground 9 feet 11 inches, at 4 feet from the ground 7 feet 2 inches; height to first branches 6 feet 4 inches; spread of branches from east to west 47 feet, from north to south 45 feet; height of tree 48 feet 7 inches. — C. S. SARGENT.

ALPINE PLANTS. — Mr. C. G. Pringle, of Charlotte, Vermont, offers for exchange or sale a few sets of the Alpine plants of New England, the fruit of his extensive herborizing during the past summer in the White and Green mountains. Mr. Pringle's collections contain *Gentiana Amarella* var. *acuta* (AMERICAN NATURALIST, volume ii., page 620), *Anemone multifida*, *Astragalus Robbinsii*, *Gnaphalium supinum*, *Orchis rotundifolia*, *Danthonia compressa*, and all or nearly all the other rare plants of his region.

HOW PLANTS GUARD AGAINST ANIMALS AND BAD WEATHER is an English title for a German work which has been lately issued as a supplement to *Botanische Zeitung*. Otto Kunze, the author, has brought together within small compass a vast number of most interesting facts respecting the means by which plants protect themselves against animals and unfavorable weather. He has also presented the results of some studies in regard to the relations of plants to salt water, noting particularly the difference in habit between maritime plants and those of the interior. After this follow some unfinished geological speculations.

BOTANICAL DIRECTORY. — We call attention to the following notice by Mr. Leggett: "In view of the great utility to botanists of a full and correct directory, your aid is invited to render the new edition as complete as possible. It should include all botanical workers in America in every department; also libraries and herbaria valuable as references for their extent or special riches; also botanical societies and gardens. Specialties and a desire to exchange should be noted. It is hoped to issue the work about December 1st. The price will be for a single copy 40 cents; three copies for $1.00; a dozen for $3.00. Address Wm. H. Leggett, 54 East 81st Street, New York."

SCIENTIFIC GERMAN. — Under this title a work has been prepared by Mr. H. B. Hodges, instructor in chemistry and German in Harvard University. It is designed to aid students in acquiring a practical knowledge of the words, phrases, and general style of German writers upon scientific subjects. The portions of the work devoted to botany are very valuable. First are given lessons on histology, morphology, and physiology; after which follow selections from recent works by well-known authors. Of those most interesting to our botanical readers we will mention: Grisebach, On the Influence of Forests upon Climate; Liebig, On the Origin of Arable Soil, and Humus; Sachs, On Movements of Plants. The volume exhibits great painstaking, and excellent judgment throughout. The vocabulary is copious and accurate, and will prove of great use to readers of the recent German works on botany.

CATALOGUE OF WISCONSIN PLANTS. — Th. A. Bruhin, of Centreville, Wis., communicates (date of April, 1876) to the Zoölogical and Botanical Society of Vienna a list of the plants of his State. The catalogue is prefaced by three shorter lists: first, the names of plants supposed to be common originally to the flora of Europe and Wisconsin. Of the 239 species, 122 are dicotyledons, 85 are monocotyledons, the remaining 32 are vascular cryptogams. The second list comprises the plants carried from America to Europe and now growing wild there, and some of those more frequently cultivated, together 35 species. In the third list are the 176 European plants introduced into Wisconsin. From these lists we learn that 450 species are common to Wisconsin and Europe.

THE SIZE OF THE LEAVES OF AUSTRIAN WOODY PLANTS. — In this memoir, Dr. Pokorny presents what he calls a phyllometric method, and which he believes is applicable to many leaves of shrubs and trees. He describes three transverse axes which cross the median line at right angles. The first of these is distant from the base of the leaf blade one fourth the length of the leaf; the second divides the leaf into halves; the third is midway between this line and the apex of the leaf. The ratios existing between these axes should give exactness to the terms applied to the forms of leaves. That our readers may make the attempt to utilize these ratios, we here transcribe the set given in the diagrams.

The longitudinal axis is assumed to be in all cases 100. say millimetres, or any units of measurement.

The first transverse axis, that which cuts the longitudinal midway between the base of the leaf and its middle point, is called B_1; the second, at the middle, is B_2; the third, midway between this and the apex, is B_3.

B_3 8.6	B_3 5.	B_3 5.
B_2 10.	B_2 10.	B_2 10.
B_1 8.6	B_1 5.	B_1 8.6
Elliptical,	Rhombic,	Ovate.

B_3 8.6	B_3 3.3	B_3 2.5
B_2 10.	B_2 6.7	B_2 5.
B_1 5.	B_1 10.	B_1 7.5
Obovate,	Deltoid,	Triangular.

The different woody plants of Austria have been studied by Dr Pokorny with respect to the ratios of these axes in the leaves, and the results are given in detail in the twenty-seventh volume of the Transactions of the Zoölogical and Botanical Society at Vienna.[1]

BOTANICAL PAPERS IN RECENT PERIODICALS. — *Botanical Gazette*. September. Dr. J. T. Rothrock, On Poisonous Properties of Leguminosæ. (Elsewhere noticed.) Professor Lockwood, Shipping Live Plants. (The plants were *Nymphœa lutea* and *odorata*, *Helonias bullata*, *Erythronium Americanum*, *Claytonia Virginica*, *Thalictrum anemonoides*, *Pyxidanthera barbulata*, and an amaryllis. The roots of these plants were surrounded by moist plastic clay, and then securely packed in a cask with sand. They were shipped on May 9th, and were received at Sydney, Australia, late in June. The *Pyxidanthera* was dead, but the species of Nymphæa were in good condition, and all the rest alive.) G. E. Davenport, Vitality in Ferns. (A plant of *Polypodium vulgare* was kept in a warm room in a perfectly dry state from November, 1876, until April, 1877. "It had become so dry and shriveled that it did not seem possible for any life to exist; yet under the influence of frequent rains it soon began to start, and is now (August 3) growing moderately.") Several notes respecting collections in Southwestern Virginia and in Missouri are given by Messrs. Shriver, James, and Barnes.

Trimen's Journal of Botany. September. H. Trimen, On *Lavatera sylvestris*, in Britain. J. G. Baker, On Brazilian Species of Alstromeria. G. S. Jenman, Ferns new to Grisebach's Flora of the West Indies. H. F. Hance, On Intoxicating Grasses. (Elsewhere noticed.) H. F. Hance, *Thorelia*, a New Genus of Lythraceæ. Baron von Mueller, List of Mr. Gile's Australian Plants. Three excellent abstracts of German memoirs are given.

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[1] Verhandlungen der Kaiserlich-Königlichen Zoölogisch-Botanischen Gesellschaft in Wien, 1877.

Botanische Zeitung, No. 32. Dr. Harz, On the Origin and Properties of Spergulin (a new fluorescent from the seed-coats of *Spergula vulgaris*). Continued from the last number. Reports of Societies. No. 33. B. Ascheron, Phytographic Notes. Christoph Gobi, On Some Phæosporeæ of the Baltic. No. 34. H. G. Holle, On the Point of Growth in the Roots of Dicotyledons. No. 35. A. Morgen, On the Process of Assimilation in germinating Cress (*Lepidium sativum.*) Continued in Nos. 36 and 37. In No. 37 there is a paper by Dr. O. Drude, On the Structure and Systematic Position of the Genus *Carludovica*. The genus is assigned a place between *Pandanaceæ* and *Palmeæ*. No. 38. Dr. O. Drude, Selected Examples to explain the Formation of the Fruit in Palms. Rostafinske, of Cracow, A Reply to Certain Criticisms by Reinke.

ZOÖLOGY.[1]

Destruction of Birds by Telegraph Wires. — Referring to Dr. Coues's article on this subject, in the Naturalist and elsewhere, I wish to add my testimony to the destruction of much larger birds than any mentioned by this writer. Many prairie chickens (*Cupiaonia cupido*) are annually destroyed in this way. In December, 1868, near Cambridge, Story County, Iowa, I saw many of these birds lying dead on the snow, beneath the line of the telegraph, and was informed by the stage driver that they killed themselves by striking the wire in their rapid flight. Some of the birds had their heads cleanly cut off, and most of them were torn and lacerated to a greater or less extent. One or two of the wounded were still alive and fluttering. The spot seemed to be a favorite one for the flight of the chickens. A high belt of timber skirted the river, and beyond this lay the mile-wide expanse of "Skunk Bottom," bounded by high bluffs on the east. For certain reasons — possibly owing to some peculiarity of the winds at this point, or to the protection afforded by the belt of timber — the birds were accustomed to speed like arrows down across this bottom, and slight contact with the single wire that stretched across would either maim or kill them outright. Since that time I have heard of several instances in which these birds have been killed in the same manner. The destruction of these birds is so general along some of the railroad lines in the West that section men make a regular business of gathering them up as an addition to their own stock of provisions. The telegraph wires may therefore be set down as one of the means — and not an insignificant one — whereby the extermination of the prairie hens is proceeding with a degree of rapidity which would be astonishing had we any means of mak-

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[1] The departments of Ornithology and Mammalogy are conducted by Dr. Elliott Coues, U. S. A.